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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/691,034	10/19/2000	Youichi Shibata	P107156-00026	5154
7590	01/10/2005			EXAMINER
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC 1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 600 Washington, DC 20036-5339			CHEVALIER, ROBERT	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/691,034	SHIBATA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bob Chevalier	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander Jr. in view of Schofield et al.

Alexander, Jr. discloses a geographic data managing system that shows substantially the same limitations recited in claim 1, including the feature of the vehicle adapted to travel on an agricultural field (See Alexander, Jr.'s column 2, line 16), the feature of the camera mounted on the vehicle for continuously taking pictures of various

portions of the agricultural field (See Alexander, Jr.'s column 10, lines 44-49), the feature of the computer mounted on the vehicle for receiving and processing pictures taken by the camera (See Alexander, Jr.'s column 15, lines 10-14), the feature of the GPS receiving information signals transmitted from GPS satellites and/or GPS base stations (See Alexander, Jr.'s Figure 16, components 22), the feature of feeding the pictures taken by the camera into the computer and the positional information transmitted from the GPS satellites into the computer to determine the position and orientations of various pictures taken by the camera as specified in the present claim 1. (See Alexander, Jr.'s Figure 16, components 22, 10, and 46).

Alexander, Jr. fails to specifically disclose the feature of synthesizing the pictures on the display to obtain the picture of the field as specified thereof as specified in the present claim 1.

Schofield et al discloses a vehicular vision system that includes the feature of synthesizing two pictures generated from cameras installed on a vehicle and the capability of displaying on a display means the synthesized pictures to obtain the picture of the entire field of view of the camera as specified in the present claim 1.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the Alexander, Jr.'s apparatus wherein the display means provided thereof would incorporate the capability of synthesizing the pictures generated from the cameras installed on the vehicle and the capability of displaying on the display means the synthesized pictures to obtain the picture of the entire field in the same conventional manner as is shown by Schofield et al. The motivation is to have a better view of the field as suggested by Schofield et al.

With regard to claim 2, the feature of automatically inputting into the computer the GPS positional information and pictures taken by the camera for each optionally determined distance on the field as specified thereof would be present in the proposed combination of Alexander, Jr. and Schofield et al indicated above. Since, all the information from the GPS and the cameras are sent to the computer. (See Alexander, Jr.'s Figure 16, components 22, 10, and 46).

With regard to claim 3, the feature of enlarging any point of the displayed pictures as specified thereof would be inherently present in the proposed combination of Alexander, Jr. and Schofield et al indicated above. Because, conventional computers such as the one shown in Alexander, Jr.'s Figure 16, and column 15, lines 12-14, would naturally include a zooming function for the purpose of sizing up or down any portion of a displayed image or text information on the computer display.

With regard to claim 4, the feature of the camera being a video or digital camera all being able to perform a communication with the computer as specified thereof is present in the proposed combination of Alexander, Jr. and Schofield et al indicated above. (See Alexander, Jr.'s Figure 16, components 10, and 46).

With regard to claim 5, the feature of the personal computer capable of receiving and processing the pictures in accordance with the received GPS information as specified thereof is present in the proposed combination of Alexander, Jr. and Schofield et al indicated above. (See Alexander, Jr.'s column 2, lines 60-63).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bob Chevalier whose telephone number is 703-305-4780. The examiner can normally be reached on MM-F (9:00-6:30), second Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


ROBERT CHEVALIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER

B. Chevalier
January 6, 2004.